

FILED	
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT	
1/20/2023	
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
BY:	VAV DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

October 2022 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CR 2:23-cr-00030-MWF

Plaintiff,

I N D I C T M E N T

v.

[18 U.S.C. § 1344(2): Bank Fraud
and Attempted Bank Fraud;
18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1):
Aggravated Identity Theft;
18 U.S.C. § 982: Criminal
Forfeiture]

MOHAMMAD MAHDI AZIMOF,

Defendant.

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNTS ONE THROUGH FOURTEEN

[18 U.S.C. § 1344(2)]

A. INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

1. At times relevant to this Indictment, Wells Fargo Bank and Chase Bank were financial institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

2. At times relevant to this Indictment, Logix Credit Union and California Credit Union (collectively with Wells Fargo Bank and Chase Bank, the "Banks") were financial institutions insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

1 B. THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

2 3. Beginning on a date unknown to the Grand Jury, but no later
3 than on or about March 14, 2022, and continuing through at least on
4 or about August 4, 2022, in Los Angeles County, within the Central
5 District of California, and elsewhere, defendant MOHAMMAD MAHDI
6 AZIMOF, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, knowingly and
7 with intent to defraud, devised, participated in, executed, and
8 attempted to execute a scheme to obtain moneys, funds, credits,
9 assets, and other property owned by and in the custody and control of
10 the Banks by means of material false and fraudulent pretenses,
11 representations, and promises, and the concealment of material facts.

12 4. The fraudulent scheme was operated and carried out as
13 follows:

14 a. Defendant AZIMOF and others would obtain victims'
15 driver's licenses, social security numbers, bank account numbers, and
16 other personal identifying information of victims.

17 b. Without permission or authorization, defendant AZIMOF
18 and others would use victims' personal identifying information to
19 cause the victims' cellular provider to activate a new subscriber
20 identification module ("SIM") or otherwise deactivate the victims'
21 cellular service and transfer the service to a new phone under
22 defendant AZIMOF's control.

23 c. Using his access to the victims' cellular plan,
24 defendant AZIMOF and others would gain access to the victims' bank
25 accounts, for example, by using two-factor authentication.

26 d. Defendant AZIMOF and others would use victims'
27 driver's licenses in order to conduct transactions with the Banks.
28 In doing so, defendant AZIMOF would falsely represent that he was the

1 account holder and was authorized to make the transaction with the
 2 victim's account, and would conceal that he was not the account
 3 holder and was not authorized to make the transaction.

4 e. By executing the above scheme, defendant AZIMOF caused
 5 or attempted to cause at least \$112,500 in losses to Wells Fargo
 6 Bank, at least \$56,000 in losses to Chase Bank, and at least \$8,000
 7 in losses to Logix Credit Union.

8 C. THE EXECUTION AND ATTEMPTED EXECUTION OF THE FRAUDULENT SCHEME

9 5. On or about the following dates, in Los Angeles County,
 10 within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant
 11 AZIMOF committed or attempted to commit the following acts, each of
 12 which constituted an execution or attempted execution of the
 13 fraudulent scheme:

COUNT	DATE	ACT
ONE	3/14/22	Execution: \$18,000 withdrawal from E.M.'s Chase Bank account ending in -4527 at a branch in Encino, California
TWO	3/14/22	Execution: \$15,000 withdrawal from E.M.'s Chase Bank account ending in -9099 at a branch in Encino, California
THREE	3/14/22	Execution: \$9,000 withdrawal from E.M.'s Chase Bank account ending in -4079 at a branch in Encino, California
FOUR	4/5/22	Execution: \$8,063.53 withdrawal from S.J.'s Wells Fargo Bank account ending in -2045 at a branch located in Pacoima, California
FIVE	4/5/22	Execution: \$53,036.20 withdrawal from S.J.'s Wells Fargo Bank account ending in -1486 at a branch located in Pacoima, California.
SIX	4/5/22	Execution: \$40,000 withdrawal from S.J.'s Wells Fargo Bank account ending in -9342 at a branch located in Granada Hills, California

COUNT	DATE	ACT
SEVEN	4/5/22	Execution: \$39,534.90 withdrawal from S.J.'s Wells Fargo Bank account ending in -9342 at a branch located in Encino, California
EIGHT	4/5/22	Attempted Execution: \$29,534.90 attempted payment on cashier's check for S.J.'s Wells Fargo Bank account ending in -9342 at a branch located in Sherman Oaks, California.
NINE	4/12/22	Attempted Execution: \$9,000 attempted withdrawal from E.M.'s Chase Bank account ending in -0570 at a branch in Encino, California
TEN	4/20/22	Execution: \$5,000 withdrawal from K.G.'s Logix Credit Union account at a branch located in Burbank, California
ELEVEN	4/20/22	Execution: \$3,000 withdrawal from K.G.'s Logix Credit Union account at a branch located in Tarzana, California
TWELVE	4/25/22	Execution: \$1,500 withdrawal from J.S.'s Wells Fargo Bank account at a branch in Sherman Oaks, California
THIRTEEN	4/25/22	Attempted Execution: \$16,000 attempted withdrawal from J.S.'s Wells Fargo bank account at a branch in Sherman Oaks, California.
FOURTEEN	8/4/22	Attempted Execution: \$998 attempted withdrawal from R.S.'s California Credit Union bank account at a branch in North Hills, California

1 COUNT FIFTEEN

2 [18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1)]

3 On or about April 5, 2022, in Los Angeles County, within the
4 Central District of California, defendant MOHAMMAD MAHDI AZIMOF
5 knowingly possessed and used, without lawful authority, a means of
6 identification that defendant AZIMOF knew belonged to another person,
7 namely, the name and driver's license number of victim S.J., during
8 and in relation to the offense of Bank Fraud, a felony violation of
9 Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344(2), as charged in Count
10 Four of this Indictment.

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1 COUNT SIXTEEN

2 [18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1)]

3 On or about April 25, 2022, in Los Angeles County, within the
4 Central District of California, defendant MOHAMMAD MAHDI AZIMOF
5 knowingly possessed and used, without lawful authority, a means of
6 identification that defendant AZIMOF knew belonged to another person,
7 namely, the name and driver's license number of victim J.S., during
8 and in relation to the offense of Bank Fraud, a felony violation of
9 Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344(2), as charged in Count
10 Twelve of this Indictment.

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1 FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

2 [18 U.S.C. § 982]

3 1. Pursuant to Rule 32.2(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal
4 Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America
5 will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18,
6 United States Code, Section 982(a)(2), in the event of the
7 defendant's conviction of the offense set forth in Counts One through
8 Sixteen of this Indictment.

9 2. The defendant, if so convicted, shall forfeit to the United
10 States of America the following:

11 (a) All right, title and interest in any and all property,
12 real or personal, constituting, or derived from, any proceeds
13 obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of the offense; and

14 (b) To the extent such property is not available for
15 forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property
16 described in subparagraph (a).

17 3. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p),
18 as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b), the
19 defendant, if so convicted, shall forfeit substitute property, up to
20 the total value of the property described in the preceding paragraph
21 if, as the result of any act or omission of the defendant, the
22 property described in the preceding paragraph, or any portion
23 thereof: (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
24 (b) has been transferred, sold to or deposited with a third party;
25 (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has

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been substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with other property that cannot be divided without difficulty.

A TRUE BILL

Foreperson

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United States Attorney

MACK E. JENKINS
Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Criminal Division



SCOTT M. GARRINGER
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